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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 262

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

MARCH-APRIL, 1965

Stage Set for Widespread Hiring, Industry & Farm

Employment Peak of 185,000 Seen— Non-farm employment in Montana started to edge upward during March after weather-caused losses of 1,000 from January to February. A gain of 500 workers from February brought the March non-farm employment total to 167,500, a new record for that month. This was 2,400 above the March, 1964 total. Employment should advance rapidly during the next two months with about 5,000 workers expected to be added to non-farm payrolls during both April and May. Early employment trends indicate a possible non-farm employment peak of at least 185,000 this year. The high point last year was set in August with 183,000 non-farm wage earners.

Construction Paced March Hiring— Despite periods of bad weather construction employment was up 400 from February and exceeded March 1964 payrolls by 600. Employment in trade establishments increased 200 over the month to register a sizeable gain of 900 over a year ago. Other gains from February occurred in service firms, up 200; and manufacturing, up 100. Payrolls in mining, transportation, utilities and communications, and finance, insurance, and real estate firms did not move during the month. Government employment dropped 400, with 300 off state and local payrolls and 100 less at the federal level.

1964 Employment Averaged 174,300— Ranging from a low of 164,300 wage earners in February to a high of 183,000

during August, non-farm employment averaged 174,300 during 1964. Four industries exceeded 1963 employment averages. Government recorded the biggest gain with an increase of 1,400 over the 1963 average employment total. Employment gains over 1963 included mining, up 400; service, up 200; and finance, insurance and real estate, up 100. Employment was less in four others. Construction registered a drop of 1,600 due chiefly to the completion of missile installation activity. Lesser declines showed in manufacturing, down 500; transportation, communications, and utilities, down 200; and trade, down 100. Historical tabulations of employment, hours and earnings, and labor turnover figures for past years are available upon request.

UCC Law Virtually Unchanged— Only two amendments to the Montana UCC Law were made by the 1965 Legislature. The first permits a retired worker who receives a pension of \$100 a month or less paid in whole or part from an employing unit from which he was retired to qualify for unemployment benefits, provided other provisions of the law are met. A retiree whose pension exceeds \$100 per month level cannot claim benefits on wage credits earned from an employer from which he retired. This disqualification does not extend to the receipt of Social Security benefits. The second amendment excludes securities salesman paid solely by commission from the definition of UCC covered employment.

Billings Has Youth Center— The first Youth Opportunity Center in Montana opened in Billings on March 16th. At the end of the month the applications of 199 young workers were in the active file. Nearly half of this number received counseling services and four were placed in employment. The job problems of youth have been a matter of serious concern in recent years. High unemployment rates among young workers continues unchecked. Although total employment and national output climbed to record breaking levels in 1963, the new jobs generated by an expanding economy were generally filled by adult workers, while the number of unemployed youth actually increased. Joblessness among the 16 to 21 year olds in the labor force rose to nearly 15 per cent in 1963 from a rate of 13 per cent the year before. The problems are serious for growing numbers of untrained and inexperienced youth are competing for jobs in the wake of a steadily shrinking demand for unskilled workers both in industry and on the farm. The purpose of the Youth Opportunity Center is to increase the employability of all young people between 16 and 22 with a special emphasis on those disadvantaged. Here, counseling, testing, occupational, and labor market information, and training plus individualized job development, referral and placement will attempt to aid the young unemployed to find a meaningful place in society.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Feb. 1965	Jan. 1965	Feb. 1964	Feb. 1965	Jan. 1965	Feb. 1964	Feb. 1965	Jan. 1965	Feb. 1964	Feb. 1965	Jan. 1965	Feb. 1964	Feb. 1965	Jan. 1965	Feb. 1964
All Manufacturing	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.4	2.5	3.0	3.7	3.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	.8	1.0	1.0
Durable Goods	3.8	4.9	4.3	2.5	4.0	3.1	4.0	4.8	4.5	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.0	1.2	1.3
Primary Metal	3.5	2.7	4.5	1.4	.9	2.3	1.9	3.8	5.2	.7	.4	.9	.2	.7	.6
Nondurable Goods	4.8	2.2	1.4	4.5	2.2	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.5	.7	.7	.9	.3	.7	.4
All Mining	5.3	8.3	6.1	2.6	3.2	3.2	11.1	8.1	6.0	3.0	3.2	1.8	2.7	.5	2.0
Metal Mining	5.5	6.7	7.3	1.6	2.5	3.5	10.0	7.5	3.9	3.7	3.8	2.0	3.2	.3	.2

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary for March 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(412 jobseekers, 83 new, 317 men, 95 women). Decline in overall hiring stemmed chiefly from adverse weather conditions during February and March. Employment dropped mainly in construction, logging, and other outdoor endeavors.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,211 jobseekers, 647 new, 2,386 men, 825 women). Employment directions in most industry groups off schedule due to periods of uncertain weather. Nearly all major construction projects forced to close during last two weeks of March because of snow and cold weather. Construction employment will advance rapidly by May 1 if weatherman cooperates. Activity in trade and service firms holds firm but with little new hiring.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(517 jobseekers, 205 new, 364 men, 153 women). Industry job placements 19% below last month and off 6% from March, 1964, as snow and cold weather cut heavily into employment trends. Some workers recalled to lumber and cement manufacturing firms. Electronics plant moved to another state displacing 14 employees.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,257 jobseekers, 306 new, 835 men, 422 women). Decline noted in metal mining placements from last year. Idled truck drivers and mechanics leaving for work in other states. Trends in construction, trade, and service groups relatively quiet. Work on new 27 unit luxury apartment building and housing development to start soon.

CUT BANK—(397 jobseekers, 75 new, 328 men, 69 women). Bad weather continued to depress employment trends during much of February and March. Good schedule of construction work waiting for weather to clear. Main street hiring at low ebb. Substantial increase noted in farm hiring.

DILLON—(155 jobseekers, 55 new, 104 men, 51 women). Most outdoor work still in suspense awaiting arrival of better weather. Highway and overpass construction at standstill but some building construction in progress. New projects planned include a \$140,000 commercial building and \$225,000 meat packing plant. Good farm labor demand, mainly for livestock care.

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 65	Feb. 65	Mar. 64	Feb. 65 to Mar. 65	Mar. 64 to Mar. 65
Civilian Work Force	240.9	242.6	241.1	-1.7	-.2
Total Employment	225.5	224.3	224.5	+1.2	+1.0
Total Non-agricultural Employment	195.6	195.8	193.5	-.2	+2.1
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	167.5	167.0	165.1	+.5	+2.4
Total Agricultural Employment	29.9	28.5	31.0	+1.4	-1.1
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.2		
Total Unemployment	15.2	18.1	16.4	-2.9	-1.2
Percent Unemployed	6.3	7.5	6.8		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	5.7	5.9		

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(484 jobseekers, 42 new, 317 men, 167 women). Bad weather caused unsteady schedules of work on highway bridge, packing plant, and headquarters building at air base. Very little new construction activity in sight for summer season. Fair demand for trade and service industry workers.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(301 jobseekers, 51 new, 218 men, 83 women). Working forces in most industries were reduced during the past two months as snow and cold weather clamped down employment activity. A few building projects continued on unsteady schedules. Livestock feeding, calving, and lambing, comprised main farm work.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,783 jobseekers, 480 new, 1,156 men, 627 women). Seasonal influences cover most industry segments. Construction and other outdoor work on unsteady basis until weather settles. Some upturn in trade and service firms will generate more activity next 30 days. Work on new missile installations now employs about 500. Highway interchange project will require full crew in 30 days.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(419 jobseekers, 65 new, 384 men, 35 women). Moderate back-to-work trend starting after lengthy siege of snow and cold weather. Preliminary work began at site of Job Corps camp. Plans for shopping center delayed temporarily. Logging employment cut in half but mills on steady basis.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(377 jobseekers, 66 new, 314 men, 63 women). Economic trends in industry at seasonal low but some upturn noted in farm hiring. Work on about \$2 million in building projects will progress as the weather clears. Two federal training

projects now active with 17 enrolled in heavy equipment operators class and 20 in leather arts and crafts.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(582 jobseekers, 204 new, 410 men, 172 women). Employment directions fairly active for the early spring season. Rapid expansion of work forces on \$3.5 million in construction now in progress and employing 160 expected next 30 days. Work on new \$3 million hospital to start in June. Opening of new cafeteria employing 28 more than offset closure of downtown cafe idling 9 workers.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby Whitefish—(1,906 jobseekers, 225 new, 1,626 men, 280 women). Hiring upswing occurred in trade, service, lumber mills, and trailer coach and tractor production during March. Logging still in grip of spring break-up keeping 400 woodsmen idle. Construction also slowed by weather. Addition of second shift at plywood mill made 50 jobs.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(325 jobseekers, 63 new, 245 men, 80 women). Economic activity in industry and farm shows improvement over last year. Seven construction projects totaling \$1½ million active compared with only \$7,000 last year at this time. Peak employment yet to come. Main street trends fairly steady. Shortage of experienced farm hands developed as demand increased.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(473 jobseekers, 50 new, 333 men, 140 women). Bad weather affected employment levels in construction, logging, and sawmills during much of March. Opening of shopping center made 25 jobs. Summer employees being recruited and hired to staff facilities at Yellowstone Park scheduled to open May 1. Railroad employment keeps fairly active

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.6	174.0	181.3	182.3	183.0	180.9	178.2	174.1	172.4	174.3
1965	168.1	167.0	167.5*										

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary for March 1

with some temporary layoffs.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(203 jobseekers, 56 new, 147 men, 56 women). Trends in industry and farm stay active for this time of the year. Good activity in trade and service firms with very little labor turnover. Construction volume not too large with work at federal installation main activity.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,438 jobseekers, 529 new, 1,046 men, 392 women). Overall economic trends present a healthy labor market picture. Construction employment edged up slightly and will climb rapidly as weather improves. Increased labor demand noted from trade and service firms with hotels, cafes, and laundries heading the list. Seasonal declines in logging continued but most mills operated steadily on stockpiled logs.

POLSON—(416 jobseekers, 69 new, 341 men, 75 women). Heavy layoffs in logging caused most new unemployment during March. Most mills keep at near top production. Construction on shaky schedules because of weather. Work on new bridge waiting to start. Farm labor demand not too brisk.

SHELBY—(105 jobseekers, 60 new, 62 men, 43 women). Influx of newcomers noted in area attracted by missile installation and dam projects. Some upturn noted in old field activity. Trade employment shows good advance. Farm labor demand exceeds last year.

SIDNEY—(336 jobseekers, 51 new, 281 men, 55 women). Labor market trends still show effects of hard winter. Main street activity slowed substantially with farm implement dealers and other suppliers most affected. Heavy livestock losses continue to be recorded after winter blizzards.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(295 jobseekers, 70 new, 263 men, 32 women). Shutdown of logging operations because of spring breakup conditions caused most new unemployment during the month. Mill work continues at good levels on stockpiled logs. Construction workers waiting to be recalled when weather clears.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(306 jobseekers, 54 new, 260 men, 46 women). Some industry groups posted employment gains during March. Hiring was up in farm implement firms, grain elevators, hotels, and cafes. Little change noted in oil fields with five oil exploration crews and three drilling rigs in operation. Upswing in farm labor demand expected by late April.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Mar. 1965 (2)	Feb. 1965 (3)	Mar. 1964	Feb. '65 to Mar. '65	Mar. '64 Against Mar. '65
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	167,500	167,000	165,100	500	2,400
Manufacturing	20,300	20,200	20,200	100	100
Durable goods	12,500	12,400	12,600	100	— 100
Lumber and timber products	7,700	7,700	7,900	00	— 200
Primary metals	3,300	3,200	3,200	100	100
Other (4)	1,500	1,500	1,500	00	00
Nondurable goods	7,800	7,800	7,600	00	200
Food and kindred products	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	900	900	800	00	100
Mining	7,100	7,100	7,300	00	— 200
Metal mining	4,400	4,400	4,600	00	— 200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	800	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,800	1,800	1,900	00	— 100
Contract Construction	8,500	8,100	7,900	400	600
Contractors, building construction	2,800	2,800	2,700	00	100
Contractors, other than building	1,600	1,600	2,300	00	— 700
Contractors, special trade	4,100	3,700	2,900	400	1,200
Transportation and utilities	16,700	16,700	16,800	00	— 100
Interstate railroads	7,300	7,300	7,500	00	— 200
Transportation except railroads	3,600	3,600	3,600	00	00
Utilities including communication	5,800	5,800	5,700	00	100
Trade	40,200	40,000	39,300	200	900
Wholesale trade	8,400	8,300	8,200	100	200
Retail trade	31,800	31,700	31,100	100	700
General merchandise and apparel	6,300	6,300	5,800	00	500
Food stores	5,200	5,300	5,100	—100	100
Eating and drinking establishments	7,900	7,600	7,600	300	300
Automotive and filling stations	6,500	6,600	6,500	—100	00
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	5,900	5,900	6,100	00	— 200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,800	6,800	6,800	00	00
Services and miscellaneous	23,800	23,600	23,700	200	100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2,500	2,400	2,600	100	— 100
Personal services	2,100	2,000	2,000	100	100
Other (6)	19,200	19,200	19,100	00	100
Government	44,100	44,500	43,100	—400	1,000
Federal	10,200	10,300	10,400	—100	— 200
State and local	33,900	34,200	32,700	—300	1,200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	21,200	21,000	20,800	200	400
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,000	00	100
Contract construction	1,700	1,600	1,500	100	200
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,000	2,100	100	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,300	5,300	5,300	00	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,500	3,500	3,500	00	00
Government	4,200	4,200	4,100	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,400	24,300	23,500	100	900
Manufacturing	3,000	3,000	2,700	00	300
Contract construction	1,500	1,500	1,500	00	00
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,500	2,600	100	300
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,500	7,500	7,200	00	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,600	4,600	4,400	00	200
Government	3,800	3,800	3,700	00	100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 843 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,226 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MARCH 1965 AND MARCH 1964

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Mar. 1965		Mar. 1964		Mar. 1965		Mar. 1964		Mar. 1965				Mar. 1964				Wk. 4-2	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	83	17	50	12	412	91	360	92	25	9	34	6	41	15	56	12	313	304
Billings	647	108	630	129	3,211	754	3,215	719	444	115	559	132	421	123	544	179	1,896	1,700
Bozeman	205	21	207	27	517	114	526	98	115	39	154	24	122	39	161	38	346	303
Butte	306	45	334	61	1,257	245	1,480	323	65	14	79	19	126	14	140	43	716	773
Cut Bank	75	22	54	22	397	122	571	112	24	163	187	65	23	107	130	44	190	303
Dillon	55	13	60	21	155	32	240	68	25	89	114	34	20	66	86	36	137	159
Glasgow	42	1	28	3	484	33	399	55	50	5	64	9	51	14	65	12	301	291
Glendive	51	8	67	7	301	56	258	45	22	13	35	2	40	6	46	7	235	168
Great Falls	480	65	423	79	1,783	371	2,047	501	302	72	374	60	180	92	272	72	1,162	1,484
Hamilton	65	8	57	13	419	106	357	79	28	10	38	2	25	13	38	5	271	291
Havre	66	2	46	3	377	106	415	115	31	54	85	22	39	46	85	20	263	316
Helena	204	17	144	21	582	139	644	192	99	45	144	41	109	50	159	38	523	590
Kalispell	225	36	208	50	1,906	515	2,040	616	121	24	145	26	95	9	104	22	1,408	1,603
Lewistown	63	6	66	8	325	64	434	126	34	55	89	19	20	34	54	9	246	307
Livingston	50	5	54	4	473	63	403	84	55	15	70	15	31	32	63	23	333	334
Miles City	56	6	110	15	203	33	449	63	58	29	87	19	76	16	92	9	200	303
Missoula	529	89	391	69	1,438	301	1,592	356	210	19	229	45	232	24	256	60	989	832
Polson	69	13	62	12	416	121	455	131	10	31	41	7	16	35	51	14	338	281
Shelby	60	12	37	10	105	59	237	60	39	80	119	36	27	26	53	13	145	161
Sidney	51	10	74	6	336	64	282	60	23	24	47	13	33	22	55	4	244	205
Thom. Falls	70	14	77	13	295	89	284	79	23	2	25	10	20	1	21	3	208	253
Wolf Point	54	4	40	5	306	52	535	56	27	8	35	6	22	21	43	7	198	233
Billings YOC*	79				199				4		4							
TOTALS	3,585	522	3,219	590	15,897	3,530	17,223	4,030	1,843	915	2,758	612	1,769	805	2,574	670	10,662	11,194

*Youth Opportunity Center. *Includes 1,140 claims of the Fed. UC Program 1,304 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. (1) 1965	Feb. (2) 1965	Mar. 1964	Mar. (1) 1965	Feb. (2) 1965	Mar. 1964	Mar. (1) 1965	Feb. (2) 1965	Mar. 1964
All Manufacturing	110.70	110.84	111.38	40.4	40.9	41.1	2.74	2.71	2.71
Durable Goods	108.65	111.67	107.23	41.0	42.3	41.4	2.65	2.64	2.59
Primary Metals	112.59	111.91	107.20	40.5	40.4	40.0	2.78	2.77	2.68
Nondurable Goods	115.53	109.62	119.99	39.7	38.6	40.4	2.91	2.84	2.97
Food and Kindred Products	101.91	98.60	105.00	40.6	39.6	41.5	2.51	2.49	2.53
All Mining	119.66	117.32	113.18	40.7	39.5	39.3	2.94	2.97	2.88
Metal Mining	115.53	115.53	112.13	38.9	38.9	38.8	2.97	2.97	2.89
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	114.80	111.61	106.70	40.0	39.3	38.8	2.87	2.84	2.75

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

UCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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